

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): An application preparation assisting method for operating a computer to assist ~~assisting~~ in preparing an application for making a document-based application to a public organization, the method comprising the steps operable on the computer of:

acquiring information on a world-wide standard which defines contents that should be described in said application;

acquiring information on a standard unique to each country which is defined in detail in conformity with said world-wide standard, and information on published applications and examinations unique to each country;

accepting conditions associated with the application documents to be prepared and accepting a selected country, wherein the conditions and the country are specified by a user;

assisting to prepare said application documents based on said acquired information on the world-wide standard, information on the standard unique to each country, ~~and~~ said information on the published applications and examinations, and said conditions associated with the application documents to be prepared;

examining said application documents to check whether any of said application documents include an item which violates examination criteria; and

preparing and converting the application documents for ~~a certain~~ said selected country to comply with an application format [or] and examination conditions in said country such that none of said application documents include any item violating said examination criteria including a quantity of a component in the application documents.

2. (canceled).

3. (original): An application preparation assisting method according to claim 1, further comprising:

acquiring information on documents which have been applied in a certain country, and information on documents which have accepted permission from said country as a result of examinations after application; and

assisting in preparing an application for another country with reference to said information on the documents.

4. (original): An application preparation assisting method according to claim 1, further comprising:

electronically submitting the prepared application documents to perform electronic application processing.

5. (original): An application preparation assisting method according to claim 1, further comprising:

recording an entire manipulation procedure of an operator for preparing an application with the assistance of application preparation as log information so that the log information can be viewed at a later time.

6. (currently amended): An application preparation assisting system for assisting in preparing an application for making a document-based application to a public organization, comprising:

means for acquiring and utilizing information on a world-wide standard which defines contents that should be described in said application;

means for acquiring and utilizing information on a standard unique to each country which is defined in detail in conformity with said world-wide standard, and information on published applications and examinations unique to each country; and

means for accepting conditions associated with the application documents to be prepared and accepting a selected country, wherein the conditions and the country are specified by a user;

means for assisting to prepare said application documents based on said acquired information on the world-wide standard, information on the standard unique to each country, ~~and~~ said information on the published applications and examinations, and said conditions associated with the application documents to be prepared;

means for examining said application documents to check whether any of said application documents includes an item which violates examination criteria; and

means for preparing and converting the application documents for said selected ~~a certain~~ country to comply with an application format [or] and examination

conditions in said country such that none of said application documents include any item violating said examination criteria including a quantity of a component in the application documents.

7. (canceled).

8. (original): An application preparation assisting system according to claim 6, further comprising:

means for acquiring information on documents which have been applied in a certain country, and information on documents which have accepted permission from said country as a result examinations after application,

wherein said means for assisting in preparing application documents prepares an application for another country with reference to said information on the documents.